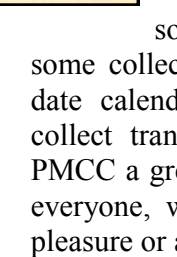
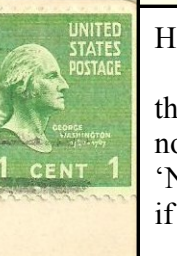
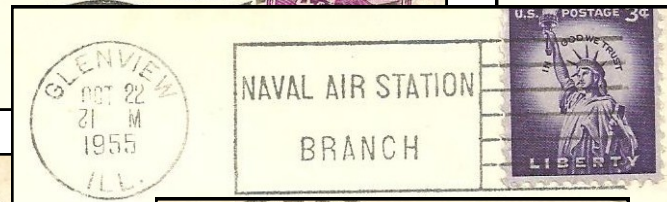
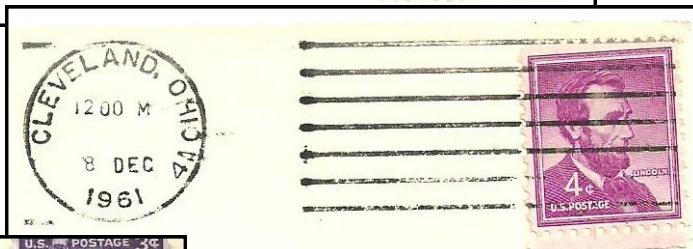
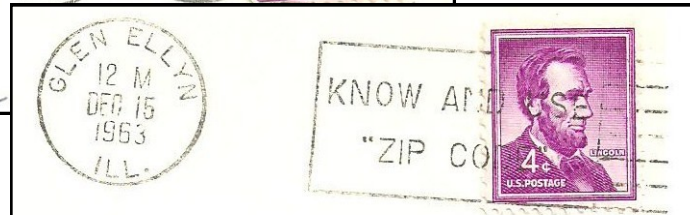
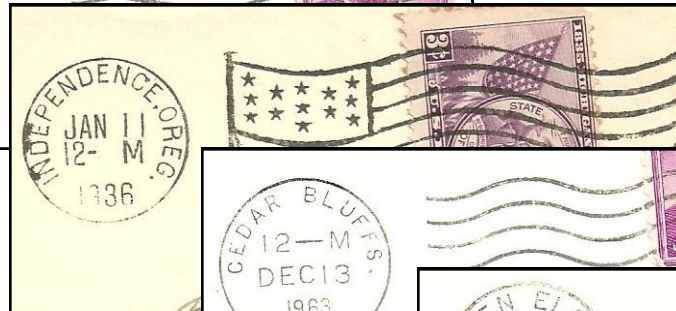
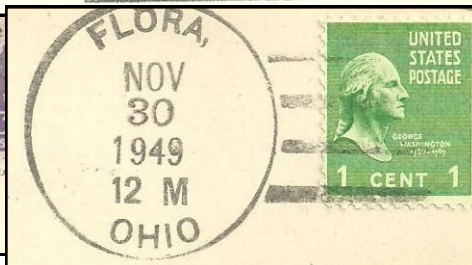


Another Word on 12 M Postmarks

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In regard to Midday postmarks (see PMCC July 2011 *Bulletin*, back page): there are, of course, variations that could make things even more interesting and/or challenging. Within the time marking area of a postmark dial, even the '12 M' has variations: with a short line between the 12 and the M, with a long line between the 12 and the



such as Flora, OH 11/30/1949 – does this imply the actual final postmark of the last day in service or perhaps the final postmark before taking a luncheon break on the last day?

Looking at standard CDS/HC/MC (circular date stamp/hand cancel/machine cancel) postmarks in the stamped-cover era, one can indeed find other usages of the '12 M' time designation. The EKU (earliest known use) I have personally seen is on a cover from 1871. Usage of 12 M appears to have been

reasonably common during the 1880's and 1890's on CDS transit dials, primarily found on the back of an envelope. Perhaps less common were 12 M markings within the CDS and/or HC on the front of an envelope or card.

Now, getting back to the notion of the '12 M' postmark: some countries leave nothing to doubt and incorporate the word 'NOON' right in the postmark – and even if it is inverted it still looks the same!

PMCC membership is diverse: some folks collect pictorial cancellations, some collect 4-bar hand cancellations, some collect date calendars, some collect postal history, some collect transit markings, etc. That's what makes PMCC a great organization as there is something for everyone, whether collecting postmarks strictly for pleasure or also for their research potential.

More postmarks on the next page.

